

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

This summer has not felt like "downtime" to me. For example, this week has been filled with two/three trips to Dubuque, a trip to Monona, Drive-Thru Food Pantry, Committee Meeting Communion Visits—along with trying to finish this article and get it off to Rabeca. Another challenge is looking ahead to September and beyond—Bible Studies, Confirmation, and special events - along with worship during Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.



Along with these, I always try to keep my eyes and ears open to the next ministry opportunity. We have begun working with "Imagine the Possibilities"—looking to expand into worship and volunteer ministries. I am also thinking of ways to use our new fellowship area for ministry possibilities—such as reenergizing some local groups such as AA and LSI as outreach to our community.

We are also looking at a new Bible Study that will focus on those who are not as familiar with their Bible. "The Greatest Story" is more of an entry-level Bible Study—will feature reading Scripture from beginning to ending—attempting to glean meaning and hope from our study together. I am also looking at maybe getting one of our local Wartburg pros to come in for a weekend "intensive" study.

Yes, we are starting a Men's Coffee and Prayer Breakfast in September—a great way to begin a week and a month—with good conversation and prayer—on September 11th (the 4th is Labor Day). This will be open to anyone interested in gathering in God's name.

Well.. I will keep my eyes and ears open—as we have God's Work/Our Hands as a possible outreach ministry to dream and scheme. I look forward to the future ministries that God's provides.

God bless,

St. John's Lutheran Church
PO Box 819
203 Pearl Street
Guttenberg, IA 52052

Pastor Michael Ashman
319-231-6440
mikepstr64@gmail.com

CHURCH WORSHIP:

5:30 PM - Saturday
9:15 AM - Sunday

Church Office Hours:

Tues: 7:00AM - 3:00 PM
Wed & Fri: 7:00AM - 12:30 PM
Thursdays 12:30-3:30 PM

Church Phone: 563-252-2355

Church Email:
stjohnsoffice@alpinecom.net

Our Website:
www.stjohnsguttenberg.com



**Back 2 School
FREE
HOTDOG
GIVEAWAY**




DROP BY TO GET A FREE HOTDOG LUNCH
**** Hot Dog, chips, water****
"We love because He first loved us."
1 John 4:19

AUG. 23rd

**After School in Parking Lot
by St. Paul Lutheran Church**

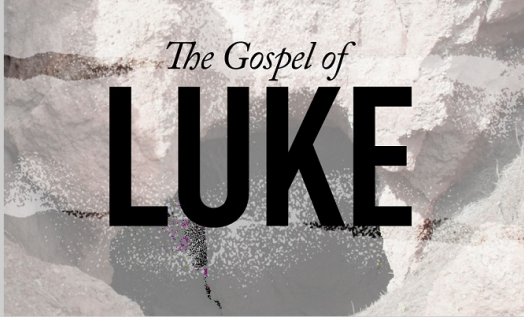
**Confirmation
2023-2024**

Kick off Meeting
August 8th -- 7pm
For both Parents and Students



**Men's
Prayer
Group**


Gentlemen....Would you like to solve all the world's problems???
Maybe not. How about coffee and donuts-- along with prayer with your
Pastor?? September 11th at 6 am-- to help you get your day and week
started right....



The Gospel of
LUKE

This Fall's Bible Study will focus on the Gospel according to Luke. As
per usual, we will meet on Thursday at 1pm. If you wish to be a part
of this group-- please let the office or the pastor know. Thanks.

BIBLE 101



Pastor is looking to start a new Bible Study -- a class for those who are
looking for a starting place to study God's word. "The Greatest Story" is
for those who would like a refresher course-- or a beginning course which
studies the Bible from beginning to end.

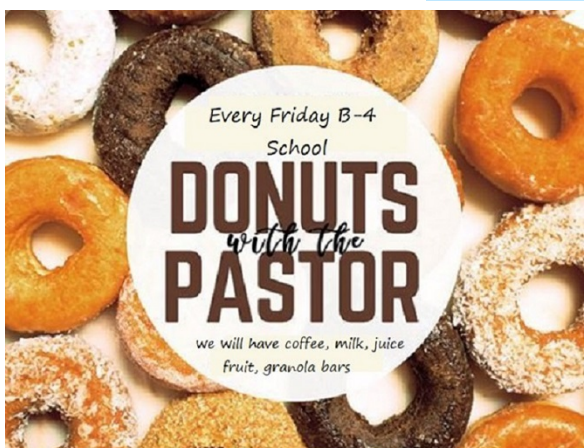
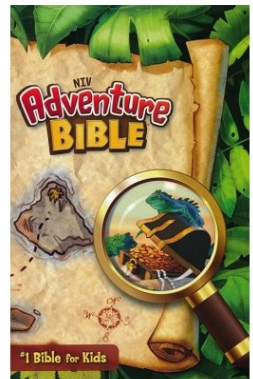
**Please let Pastor know if you are interested in this type of study.
Day or time will be set by those who are interested.**

- Kids' Stuff -



We will once again be giving out Bibles to our little ones. These are given to baptized children in Pre-k and kindergarten class. If you have any questions, please give the office a call.

We will also offer the Adventure Bibles to baptized children in the 3rd grade - (and to those in grades 4-6 who have not received them in the past).



Donuts and much more!
Every *first* Friday of the month starting Sept 1st, we will have a hot breakfast in the Fellowship Hall before school. Other Fridays, we will offer donuts, juice, fruit and cereal.

Friends and younger sibs are more than welcome - tell your friends!



Young Youth Ministry
2023 - 2024
Grades 3-6

(exceptions are sometimes made for certain events)

The possibilities are almost
ENDLESS!

Please email, call or speak with pastor about this coming year. If you would like to be on a small group to organize these activities, please let us know - (no, not a "committee") - just a small group to chat and generate ideas going forward.

Thanks!



-PLEASE PRAY FOR-

Ross Abbott, Michael Anderegg, Vera Ashman,, Owen Aulwes, Kay Bahlmann, Cecil Bahls, Kay Becker, Lois Davis, Marvin Dean, Bob Ferguson, Tammy Goodman, Jerry Kolker, Brayton Kuhse, Richard Larson, Juanita Loven, Mike Lutz, Kathy Meskimen, Jenny Meyer, JoLynn Moore, Merlin Moser, Randy Moser, Shirley A. Moser, Shirley M. Moser, Tiffany Moser, Jean Pensel, Mick Pierce, Shelby Preston, Zander Purman, Denny Reth, Pat Rodenberg, Denny Roth, Natalie Schmelzer, Rich Schmelzer, Renee Schubart, Jim Solomon, Mary Sundermeier, Terry Thein, Bill Tielbar, Arthur Tomkins, Everd Tuecke, Al Ullerick

River Living Center: Bob Ferguson, Nell Stone, Arlene Tackman, Mae Jetter, Janet Lundt, Ed & LaVonne Rodenberg, Virginia Roth

Guttenberg Care Center: Shirley Moore, Shirley Moser

Ennoble Nursing Care: Dennis Roth

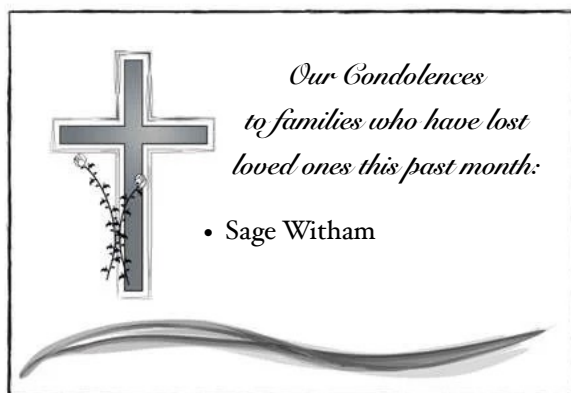
Garden View Place, Monona: Terry Thein



CARE CENTER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

GUTTENBERG CARE CENTER: Every Monday at 10:00 AM

RIVER LIVING CENTER: Thurs. August 3 - 10:30 AM



Believing God is the cure-giver, Guttenberg Stephen Ministers provide confidential listening and caring to individuals experiencing a life change. Visits are for about an hour once a week or as individually arranged. To request a Stephen Minister for yourself or someone else, please call the church office.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Camera Ministry



SUNDAY

Aug. 6 - Madi Thomas
 Aug. 13 - Mason Hinzman
 Aug. 20 - Delaney Brown
 Aug. 27 - Park Worship

SATURDAY

Aug. 5 - Gavin Stoerp
 Aug. 12 - Avery Harbaugh
 Aug. 19 -
 Aug. 26 - Lennox Moser

SUNDAY

Aug. 6 - Delaney Brown
 Aug. 13 - Myka Bries
 Aug. 20 - Mason Hinzman
 Aug. 27 - Madi Thomas

Acolyte Ministry



If you would like to join,
 or know someone
 interested in finding a
 church home, please
 let us know.

We are also very flexible – you are welcome to
 join on any weekend—

just contact Pastor Mike!



Oom Pah Pah!!! Worship with the German Band!!
 September 24th-- Save the Date
 10:15

AUGUST Stewards

	Ushers	Lector
Aug. 6	Forest & Tina Brown	Forest Brown
Aug. 13	Gary & Sue Meyer	Cindy Niehaus
Aug. 20	Ross & Mary Abbott	Mary Abbott
Aug. 27	Worship in the Park	

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Already August! Gardens are in full swing, flowers are getting past their blooms and thoughts of fall mums in September are with us. The last days of summer include the closing of the beloved summer time activities and the ringing bells of school starts. It is the rhythm of our lives that we take for granted until there is a blip in the routine and suddenly we are out of rhythm.

This year as a community, we have experienced flooding, drought, and air quality issues from smoke. For many of us it had no impact to our daily routines but it did for our families or neighbors. Others have been impacted by loss due to death, broken relationships, loneliness, job challenges, substance abuse, domestic/sexual abuse and the list goes on. It makes us ponder how much easier it is to talk about meet a physical need for help vs a longer walk with loss. Others need a short boost of help with unexpected needs such as food, school supplies, utilities cleaning products, and... you get the point. It's overwhelming.

Wow, you have to be wondering why such a heavy load especially at a time when we should be experiencing the last of the hazy, lazy days of summer. The answer is simple - we are the people of God and it is who we are (helpful to know in this world of identity crisis) that enables us to reach out to others in love. The complexity comes when we forget who is in control, who chose us, and who we are - children of a living, loving God. God's hand activates our love and the ability to reach out in love. Read the Bible and you will see the disciples grow in this love and the excitement they experienced in reaching out to others God placed in their paths! This is what God has for each of us also!

Opportunities abound at St. John's to share your gifts, talents, and skills. The glory of God shows that you fit right in.



Christ Caring • For People • Through People

We have some great people who will walk with you,
Talk with you....and yes, even pray for you"

We are seeking care receivers -
People in need of a cup of cold water -
A willing ear....or gentle presence.

Call Pastor Mike 319-231-6440 for a confidential referral

WELCOME TO YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

Featuring | Forest Brown| Children & Youth

I grew up in...

Guttenberg almost my entire life. I am the fourth and youngest in my family. I have two sisters, Christine and Elizabeth (Betsy) and one older brother, David, III. I have such fond memories of my childhood spent on the Mississippi River. My parents, Dave and Katherine, had a houseboat before they divorced. We spent wonderful times on the river. I loved being a "River Rat" and that was a major influence that brought me back to Guttenberg after college. I learned from the ground up about working hard. As early as age four I recall washing cars at the dealership, more likely babysitting than actually helping out.

My most meaningful accomplishment in high school...

was being the Student Body President my senior year at the Guttenberg High School. I appreciated the multiple opportunities I had at GHS to be involved in sports, plays, the art department, Student Senate, and other interests. What I gained from being in each activity was the chance to develop many, varied friendships. Having a broad base of friends gave me so much more enjoyment and many have lasted a lifetime.

After high school, I...

I attended Coe College. I received a BA degree in Business Administration and Management, along with minors in economics and history.



(Continued...)

After graduation I worked at Brown's Dealership. I met Tina and we were married at St. John's Lutheran. Tina and I live in Guttenberg and have three children. Reagan is a junior in college, Elliot graduated in May from Clayton Ridge High School, and our youngest, Delaney, will be in grade seven in the fall. I have continued my work at the Browns Family of Dealerships as President with locations in Elkader, Guttenberg, Dyersville, and two in West Branch, Iowa.

One of the biggest life lessons I learned from...

two accidents that left me with severe injuries. Having to overcome a shattered left hip, broken pelvic bone, and a concussion meant spending seven months with crutches, then a year with a cane. During this time of slow healing I had many occasions to reflect on my life. I realized after my second accident that I needed to re-assess and take a step back to see the big picture. These accidents reminded me to do good, be better, and certainly my faith got me through it all. Two months after the accident I was able to finally enter the church and go up for communion. The emotion I felt at being in the sanctuary again and in the presence of God was overwhelming.

To me, grace means...

the fulfillment of understanding all the early Christian teachings while building the foundation for my adult life. I believe Jesus Christ was sent to save us from our sins. This is the biggest gift we have! The ultimate grace is forgiveness.

I'm a Lutheran because...

my parents raised me as a Lutheran and I feel comfortable and proud to say I am a Christian. When I attend worship, listen to our pastor or meet other people they serve as good reminders of lessons from the Bible. I recall being asked to speak during the Lenten season on the Prodigal Son text. As I reflected and contemplated which am I?, perhaps both, this experience pushed me out of my comfort zone but also grew my faith. I have a deep commitment and need to attend church to receive God's grace and be filled with the Holy Spirit. My wife, Tina, and I are purposely building a faith foundation for our family. We see the importance of attending worship and being involved at St. John's. I am serving as chair of the Children & Youth Ministry of the St. John's Lutheran Church Council. I thank you for this opportunity and the trust you've given me during my term, which ends January of 2024.

St. John's American Evangelical Lutheran Church
Thursday, July 13, 2023
Council Meeting Minutes

Members present: Craig Tuecke, Deb Preston, Lorna Moser, Forest Brown, Michele Von Handorf, Sherry Oliver, Brian Rodenberg, Diane Thiese,

Members Absent: Frank Davis, Chuck Hemann, Penny Rausch, Mary Striech

Staff Present: Pastor Ashman

Call to Order: President Brian Rodenberg called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Devotions & Prayers: Pastor Ashman led with an opening reflection.

Secretary's Report: The council reviewed minutes of the June council meeting. No additions or corrections were noted. Craig motioned to approve the minutes. Lorna made a second to the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Craig reviewed a transcribing error and once corrected, Michele made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Lorna made a second to that motion.

General Fund:	\$23,376.21
Benevolence:	\$24,239.67
Improvement:	\$38,752.97
Memorial Fund:	\$ 8,073.09
Benevolence Savings:	\$12,894.49
Sunday School:	\$ 1,072.41
Organ Fund:	\$ 3,366.06
Scrip:	\$ 3,608.13
Luther League:	\$ 5,673.59
Ending Balance:	\$121,563.12

Pastor's Report: A written report was presented by Pastor Ashman highlighting last month's activities.

Outreach Ministries: Diane reported that she and Myron Thiese, Gerald and Trudy Glawe attended the Synod Assembly. Diane stated that it was a very worthwhile experience and highlighted their trip.

Educational Ministries: Vacation Bible school was a huge success. Sunday School resumes September 10th.

Children & Youth Ministries: Forest and Pastor continue to work with the Dubuque Rescue Mission to take youth for a summer mission trip. Forest is seeking a replacement for his council position.

Public Relations: No report. The camera is fixed.

Stewardship Ministries: Sherry met with the Stewardship Committee and reviewed that the giving letters were sent out.

Worship & Music Ministries: No report

Property Ministries: No report, however Frank has arranged for an electrician to replace the light in the Rose Window.

Parish Fellowship: Lorna stated that Worship in the Park will be August 27th. VBS went well. Thrivent funds will be used for a new coffee pot. Volunteers are needed to sell coffee at the Farmers Market through September. Lynda Schaefer has agreed to take Lorna's seat within the Parish Fellowship committee.

V.P. Report: No report.

Old Business:

Remodel Project Update – Brian updated the progress of the project. The kitchen flooring will be installed this Monday and Tuesday. The trim

and shelving are installed. The Island is complete. The electrical panel has been installed and the restroom lights are now on motion sensors. Building issues – Rose window light issue addressed. The parsonage window cleaning is complete. Brian obtained a quote to replace some of the landscaping around the parsonage and a motion was made to move forward with the landscaping not to exceed \$250.00. Lorna made a motion to complete the landscaping project. Michele made a second to that motion.

Pledge & Remodeling costs update – Craig provided a report on the pledges received and costs remaining.

New Business:

Approve transfer of recent memorial gifts and future undesignated memorial funds to the Improvement Fund until the remodeling project is fully funded. Motion by Forest with a second by Diane. Motion carried. The semi annual meeting is scheduled for July 23rd. Several council seats are up for reelection and volunteers are needed.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next regular council meeting: Thursday, August 10th, at 7:00.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deb Preston.

Monthly Stewardship Report

Amount Needed Weekly \$3,774

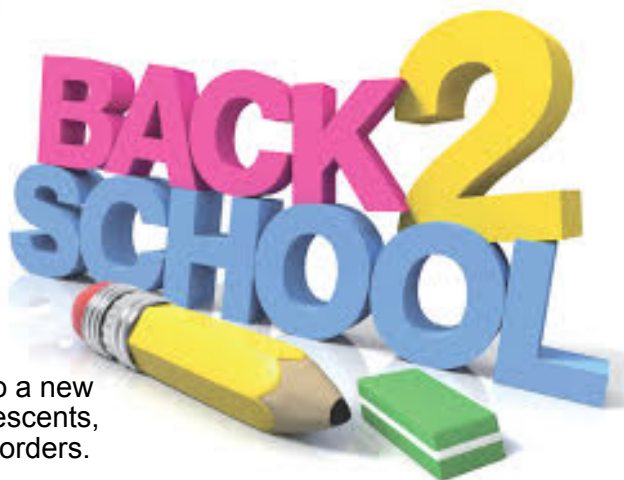
Offering	June 25	\$3,023
	July 2	\$3,578
	July 9	\$2,820
	July 16	\$2,175

ADOPT A DAY

How would you like to consider adopting a day(s) and paying for St. John's church utilities for that day(s)? This would be above your regular church giving and would be a huge financial plus for St. John's. You choose the day(s). Why not consider adopting a day for your birthday or that of a family member, or an anniversary of your baptism, wedding or all of them and more?

If you would like to adopt a day, just write your information on a piece of paper and enclose it with your payment of \$45 per day.

Aug. 19 - Kim & Dan Hagen, in honor of Marie Hagen's birthday



Saying goodbye to summer and transitioning into a new school year can be a difficult time for many adolescents, especially those with emotional or behavioral disorders.

LSI has 27 therapists that provide mental health counseling to individuals of all ages through in-person therapy in over 20 locations across the state and virtual therapy in all 99 counties. In 2022, our Clinical Services team served more than 1,000 clients, totaling 14,000+ therapy sessions for Iowans of all ages.

In addition, our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team wraps care around a child's entire family to empower them with skills like anger management, healthy decision-making and problem-solving. In 2022, the BHIS team served over 250 clients, resulting in more than 3,900 therapy sessions for children and their families.

Through LSI's Trauma Informed Care program at the Juvenile Detention Center in Waterloo, our staff work with the teens by completing trauma assessments on each adolescent and providing a summary to their juvenile court officers. The LSI staff also facilitate both individual and group therapy sessions with the teens to help them deal with their trauma and work through it in a productive way.

If you or someone you know could benefit from therapy – even from the comfort of your own home – reach out by calling 888.457.4692 or visiting LSIowa.org/therapy.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children and families in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI senior director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa



AUGUST CALENDAR

Tues. Aug. 1	1:00 pm 5:30 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God (SP) Council Meeting
Wed. Aug. 2	1:00 pm	(SJ) Sarah Circle
Sat. Aug. 5	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Aug. 6	8:00 am 9:15 am	(SP) Worship (SJ) Worship
Mon. Aug. 7	4:30 pm	(SJ) Stephen Ministers
Tues. Aug. 8	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God (SJ) Confirmation Meeting
Wed. Aug. 9	7:00 pm	(SJ) Choir Practice
Thur. Aug. 10	7:00 pm	(SJ) Council Meeting
Sat. Aug. 12	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Aug. 13	8:00 am 8:30 am 9:15 am	(SP) Worship (SJ) Choir Practice (SJ) Worship
Tues. Aug. 15	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Aug. 16	5:00 pm	(SJ) Food Pantry Drive-Thru
Sat. Aug. 19	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Aug. 20	8:00 am 9:15 am	(SP) Worship (SJ) Worship
Tues. Aug. 22	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
Thur. Aug. 24	Noon - 5 pm 4:30 pm	(SJ) Red Cross Blood Drive (SJ) Stewardship
Sat. Aug. 26	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Aug. 27	8:00 am 9:15 am	(SP) Worship (SJ & SP) Worship in the Park
Tues. Aug. 29	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God

Worship time changes on
Sunday September 3rd!
St. John's: 10:15 am

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is Open:

Tues: 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

Wed: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm

Thurs: 12:30 - 3:30 pm

Fri: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm



NORTHEAST IOWA
FOOD BANK

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the mobile food pantry, both pre-packing and distributing.

Mobile Food Pantry is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Truck from the Northeast Iowa Food Bank is scheduled to arrive at 4:30 pm, with distribution from 5 - 6 pm.

The next event will be a drive through event at 5:00 pm on Wed. Aug. 16th - -

volunteers needed at 4:30 to unload the truck

If you are able to help, please call the church office and we will add your name to our volunteer list.



THANK YOU to the volunteers from
5 Star Realty
who assisted with the July Mobile Food Pantry.

AUGUST Baptisms

August 1
Sherry Oliver
Andy Smith
Raymond Stoerp

August 3
Peyton Reth

August 5
Abrianna Moore

August 8
Mary Beth Allyn
Kay Bahlmann
Gavin Stoerp
Charlie Clinton
Allison Garlow

August 10
Nathan Klein
Janet Lundt

August 11
Mila Allyn
John Duwe
Diane Schilling

August 12
Brent Blanchard
David Kraus
Juanita Loven
Joel Moser

August 13
Quinn Breuer-Walke

August 14
Gavin Drewelow
Elizabeth
Schwendinger
Daxton Schroeder

August 16
Leanne Walke

August 19
Diane Bockenstedt
James Meyer

August 20
Jon Thomas

August 22
Sarah Fischer

August 24
David Herrmann

August 25
Kimberly James

August 29
Brenda Tackman

August 31
Anna Kahle
Cindy Niehaus
Maureen Seevers

AUGUST Birthdays

August 1
Caitlin Backes
Quinn Breuer-Walke
LaVonne Rodenberg
Bensen Schultz

August 2
David Kraus
Pat Meyer

August 3
Bev Bahls

August 4
Carlie Hyde

August 5
Kay Bahlmann
Gerald Glawe

August 6
Charlie Clinton
Cindy Niehaus
Deb Schlueter

August 7
Courtney Olson
Diane Schilling
Antonio Armstrong

August 8
Kayla Drewelow

August 9
Taylor Chase

August 10
Coleman Meyer

August 11
Dawn Moser

August 12
Linda Horstman

August 14
Avery Harbaugh
Joan Manson
Glen Witham

August 15
Jeff Friedlein
Walker White

August 17
Lynn Ertl
Sandy Lightfoot

August 19
Harley Andergg
Sheryl Bahls
Elliott Brown
Sarah Fischer

August 20
Richard Balajadia
Jon Thomas

August 21
Emily Blanchard
Chad Esmann
Gloria Britten
Diane Thiese

August 22
Terry Thein

August 23
Dee White
Cliff Judkins

August 24
Bev Blanchard
Harold Heitman
Caden Glawe

August 25
Zoe Walke
Callista Zinnel

August 26
Karilyn McArthur
Mary Esmann

August 27
John Anderegg
Gary Backes

August 28
Oakley Harbaugh
Ben Schmelzer

August 29
Janice Moser

August 31
Hayden Dugan
Kinzley Oleson

AUGUST Wedding**Anniversaries**

August 5
Randy & Karen
Backes

August 6
Bill & Joanne Peters

August 7
Gary & Bev Bahls
Audie & Diane
Baumgartner

August 8
Ron & Kay
Bahlmann

August 10
Steve & Michele
VonHandorf
James & Heather
Meyer
Mark & LuAnn
Urlaub

August 21
Allan & Dee White

August 22
Vernon & Janice
Moser

August 24
Myron & Diane
Thiese

August 25
Ed & Lavonne
Rodenberg

August 30
Chad & Kari
Harbaugh
Rich & Deb Preston



“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.” - Ephesians 4:32